



Post Event Report

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Thank you for attending

Thank you for attending Water Research Australia's research and innovation conference – Next Water – and helping to make the event a great success. We had 194 delegates from across Australia and overseas come together to learn and explore how collaborative research is generating impact within the water industry.

This year the event took a fresh approach to revisit the water wisdom of the past and use it as a platform to determine what impact and innovation needs to occur to ensure future flow.

Next Water embodies our long-standing tradition of collaboration and demonstrates how we are increasingly focussed on all aspects of water and strengthening our membership community across industry, regulators, researchers and trusted partners, by providing opportunities to collectively drive value from research and innovation by generating new knowledge and the capability to use it.

Over 70 nationally and internationally renowned speakers and panellists shared their views on the biggest trends and challenges facing the water industry, particularly in the areas of:

- Diversification of water sources;
- Addressing current and emerging challenges;
- Innovating with technology and ingenuity;
- Wastewater in the circular economy;
- Monitoring for human health;
- Net Zero;
- The human factor; and,
- Recognising First Nations' water wisdom and research.

We would like to thank our presenters for sharing their experience and expertise, and our sponsors for their valued support.

We hope you enjoyed Next Water and look forward to welcoming you at a future event.



Karen Rouse
CEO
Water Research Australia



Australia's leading research for industry event



Speakers

Featured below are our keynotes, special guests and a selection of our expert presenters.



Prof Alan Duffy

Astronomer & Director
*Space Technology & Industry Institute
Swinburne University of Technology*



Prof John Thwaites AM

Chair
*Ministerial Advisory Group
on the Circular Economy*



Dr Fiona Kerr

Founder & Director
The NeuroTech Institute



Chris Gould

General Manager Business
Development
Sydney Water



A/Prof Sera Young

Anthropology & Global Health
Northwestern University (USA)



Dr Leslie 'Phil' Duncan

CEO
EPIC CRC



Dr Terri Janke

Managing Director
Terri Janke and Company



Dr Alex Held

Director
CSIRO Centre for Earth Observation



Kaia Hodge

Executive Director, Regional
Water Strategies
*Department of Planning, Industry
and Environment*



Dr Stacey Hamilton

Team Leader, Membrane Treatment
Water Corporation



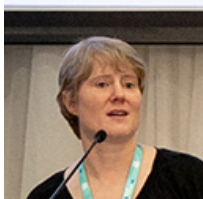
Dr Paul Monis

Manager, Research
Stakeholders & Planning
SA Water



Dr Kaye Power

Principal Strategic Public
Health Advisor
Sydney Water



Dr Kathy Northcott

Technical Specialist - Water
Veolia



Dr Nicholas Crosbie

Manager, Recycled Water
& IWM Research
Melbourne Water



Prof Stuart Khan

School of Civil &
Environmental Engineering
UNSW Sydney

1 Water is an essential resource for human wellbeing and economic growth, but there are numerous challenges for the water industry, including chemicals of concern, climate change, and scarcity. The Australian water industry has highlighted their focus on the analysis and treatment of contaminants such as PFAS, microplastics, and bromides.

2 Australia's catchments are feeling the effects of climate change and the smart management of water bodies to enhance resilience to change is required. Longer term adaptation to climate change requires an understanding of the whole water cycle including surface and groundwater parameters, catchment land-use and local ecological systems to secure future water supplies that meet community and environmental needs in a balanced manner.

3 Water scarcity is one of the greatest challenges we face globally today, exacerbated by a multitude of factors from the changing social landscape to demand for intensive agriculture and changing climate. Water reuse provides us with a real and viable technical option to address the impacts of water stress. Regulatory contexts vary globally, and vary from state to state within Australia, however they all require the demonstration of safety and reliability – for communities and for the environment. Treatment validation (WaterVal) is one important tool that regulators and water managers can use to impart confidence in water reuse.



4 First Nations' water wisdom and intrinsic science knowledge are essential ingredients to help achieve healthy communities and a healthy planet. WaterRA, in our own right and through collaboration with our members, will continue to listen and walk with those from the indigenous community to understand how we can work together to achieve this shared goal.

5 The race to Net-Zero emissions has already started and represents a considerable challenge for the water industry as it is the largest carbon emitter among all government sectors. Extensive research has been conducted to measure GHG emissions from WWTPs, identify GHG hotspots, and develop mitigating strategies that allows emissions targets to be reached in a timely manner.

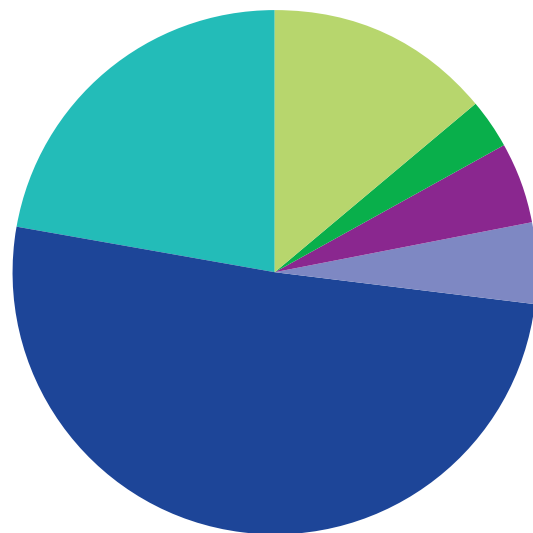
6 The water sector needs to be involved in the development of a hydrogen economy to plan for water use and prevent water scarcity. Additionally, the involvement of the water industry in the hydrogen economy can bring numerous benefits, including the potential to significantly reduce GHG emissions.

Attendee breakdown

194
ATTENDEES

70
COMPANIES

78
SPEAKERS



Attendee type:

- Consultant/Advisor (14%)
- Environmental & Health Regulator (3%)
- NGO/Association (5%)
- Government (5%)
- Research/Scientific/Technical Provider (51%)
- Utility (22%)

70%
member
organisations
of total attendees



Organisations represented

Alluvium	Federation University	SA Water	University of South Australia
ALS Global	Griffith University	SAAFE Ltd	University of Sydney
ANU	Global Water Research Coalition	Seqwater	University of Technology, Sydney
Atom Consulting	HARC	South East Water	University of Western Australia
Aurecon	Hunter Water	Southern Cross University	UNSW Sydney
Australian Antarctic Division	HydroNumerics	Swinburne University of Technology	University of Wollongong
Barwon Water	Icon Water	Sydney Olympic Park Authority	Veolia ANZ
Carollo Engineers	Isle Utilities	Sydney Water	Victoria University
Centratech Systems	Melbourne Water	TasWater	Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service
Charles Darwin University	Monash University	Terri Janke & Associates	Wannon Water
Coliban Water	National Measurement Institute	The NeuroTech Institute	Water Corporation
CSIRO	Northwestern University (USA)	Total Water	Water Futures
Curtin University	NSW Department of Planning and Environment	Unibus Consulting	WaterNSW
Deakin University	NSW Health	University of Adelaide	WEHI
Department of Health Queensland	NSW Water Directorate	University of Melbourne	Western Sydney University
Department of Health Victoria	PH Water Consultants	University of New South Wales	Westernport Water
Dharriwaa Elders Group	RMIT University	University of Newcastle	WSAA
Eurofins Environment Testing Australia		University of Queensland	

Networking

Next Water provided a unique opportunity for delegates to network with research, industry and regulatory leaders in the local and global water sector. The event featured continuous discussion on industry best practice and how it could be applied to water businesses.

7+ hours of networking

12.8k social media interactions



With special thanks to our 2023 event sponsors

